



Week of Oct. 22 – Oct. 28, 2008

## Participation in the political process

In a couple weeks our country will elect its 44th president. This election is fueled by many issues from the economy to the War on Terrorism, and as citizens of the United States, Airmen have the right and responsibility to participate in the political process.

As Airmen, it is our duty to protect and defend the political freedoms of all citizens; however, we can not give the perception that the Air Force supports one political candidate or party over another. Here are a few things all Airmen should know about participating in the political process:

### **Airmen on active duty may:**

- Register to vote, vote and express personal opinions on political candidates and issues, but not as a representative of the Armed Forces
- Display political bumper stickers on private vehicles and wear political buttons in civilian clothes when off duty
- Make monetary contributions to a political organization or political committee
- Encourage others to take part in the political process

### **Airmen on active duty (including active-duty Reservists) may not:**

- Attend political events in uniform
- Use their official authority to interfere with an election and affect the course or outcome
- Participate in any radio, television or other program advocating a party or candidate
- Solicit or fundraise for a partisan political cause or party
- Post political party signs or other partisan paraphernalia in a government work center or installation housing area

Know your rights, and know the rules. Political activity rules are listed in Department of Defense Directive 1344.10, *Political Activities by Member of the Armed Forces*, Feb. 19, 2008. Violators of this directive may be punished under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. For more information, contact your local legal office.

Find Airman's Roll Call Online Here: <http://www.af.mil/library/viewpoints/>

*Airman's Roll Call is designed for supervisors at all levels to help keep Airmen informed on current issues, clear up confusion, dispel rumors, and provide additional face-to-face communication between supervisors and their teams.*